

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 70  
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study all aspects of alcohol and drug abuse treatment services, including the cost effectiveness of state funds expended therefor.

WHEREAS, for some thirty (30) years, the problems associated with addiction to alcohol and/or other drugs have been addressed by funds devoted to resolution of the use of these mind and mood-altering substances; and

WHEREAS, the treatment/prevention of drug and alcohol addiction has been addressed by various strategies, including controlled drinking, drug substitution, deviant behavior, resiliency, moral issues, responsible use and numerous other strategies; and

WHEREAS, state authorities have consistently supported behavior/symptomatic approaches and lent little or no service support to disease (12 Step) programs and services across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the problems associated with drug and alcohol addiction are ever increasing and have in fact reached epidemic proportions; and

WHEREAS, the lack of coordinated statewide efforts presents a major obstacle to dealing with the problems created by drug and alcohol abuse; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that this General Assembly carefully examine the effectiveness, both in monetary and human terms, of our present delivery system for drug and alcohol treatment services; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study all aspects of our present delivery system for alcohol and drug abuse treatment services, including the cost effectiveness of state funds expended therefor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be charged with the responsibility of promulgating a consistent and comprehensive philosophy/approach to the delivery of drug and alcohol abuse treatment services in Tennessee. The committee shall also study the clinical effectiveness of the various methods of drug and alcohol abuse treatment employed and the funding mechanisms employed in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One-Hundredth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

